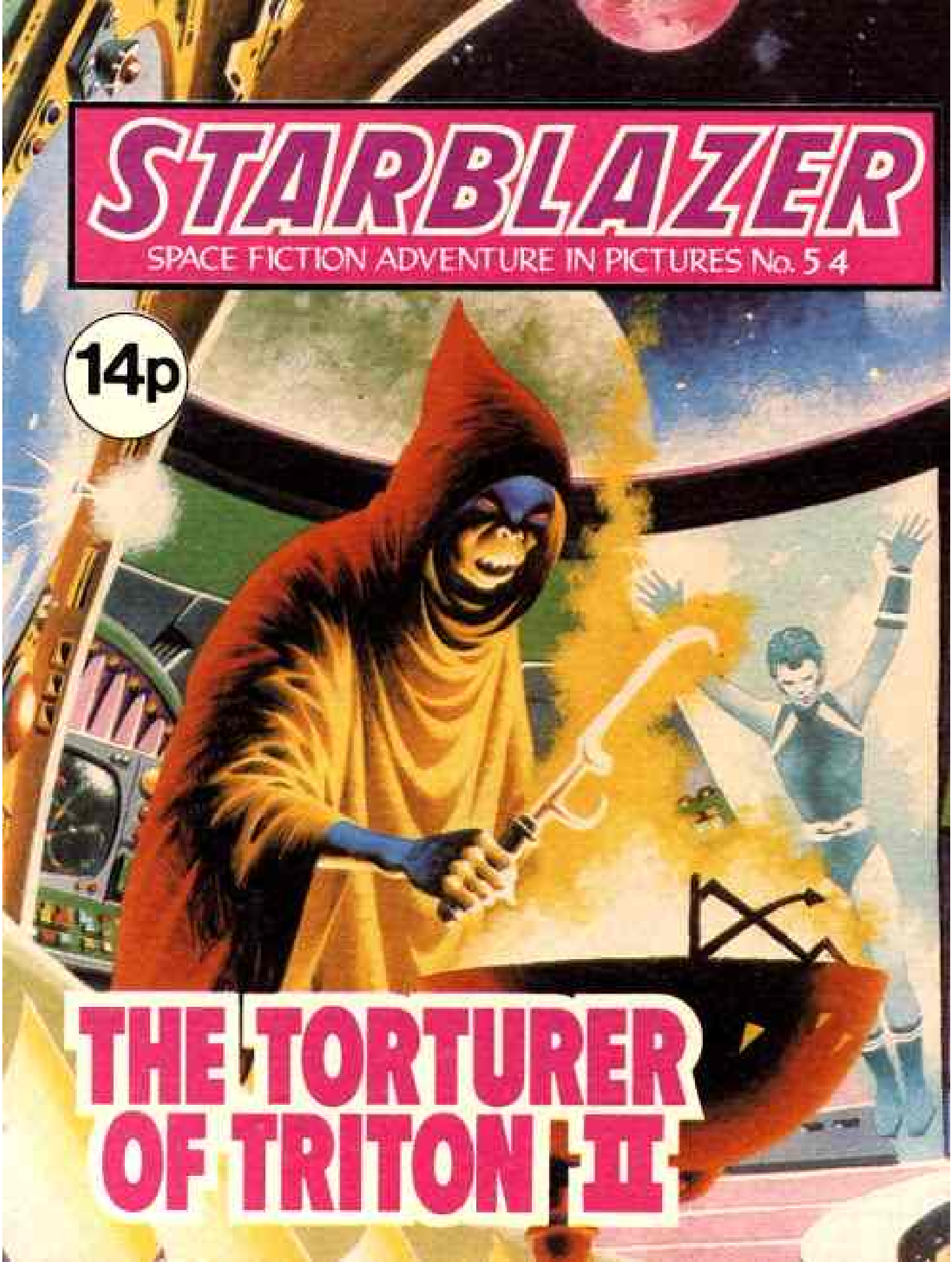
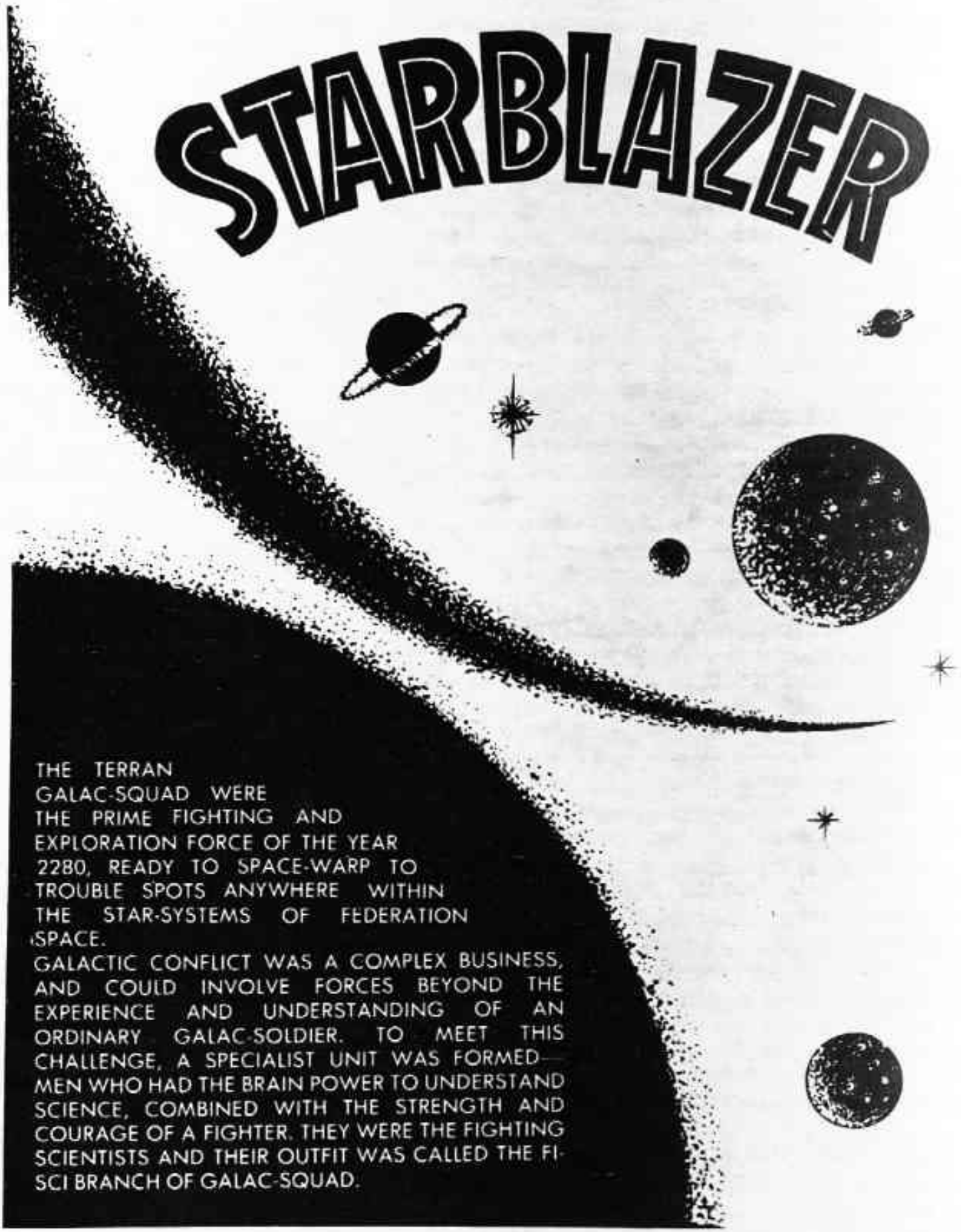

STARBLAZER
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 5 4
14p
THE TORTURER OF TRITON II

STARBLAZER

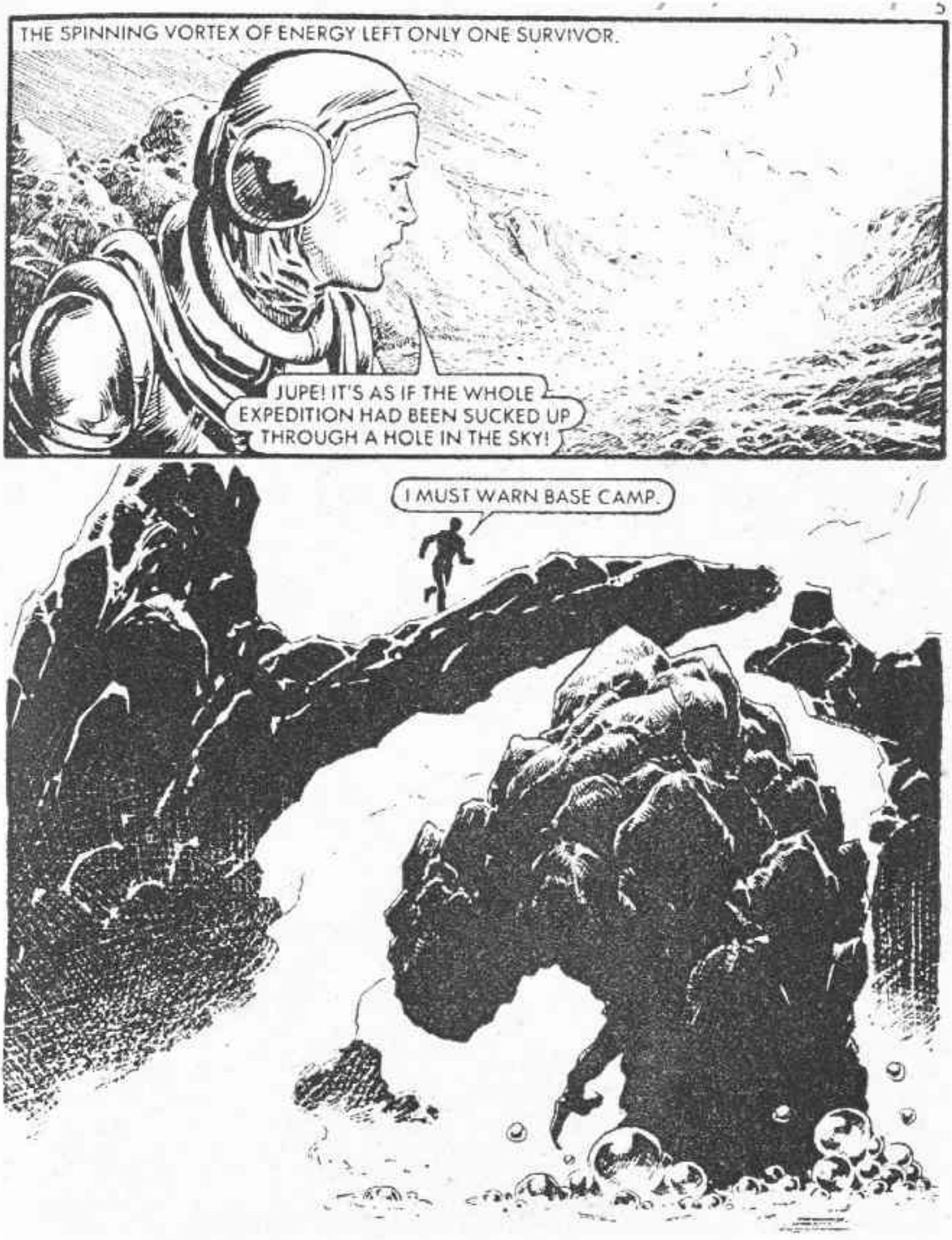


THE TERRAN GALAC-SQUAD WERE THE PRIME FIGHTING AND EXPLORATION FORCE OF THE YEAR 2280, READY TO SPACE-WARP TO TROUBLE SPOTS ANYWHERE WITHIN THE STAR-SYSTEMS OF FEDERATION SPACE.

GALACTIC CONFLICT WAS A COMPLEX BUSINESS, AND COULD INVOLVE FORCES BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF AN ORDINARY GALAC-SOLDIER. TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, A SPECIALIST UNIT WAS FORMED—MEN WHO HAD THE BRAIN POWER TO UNDERSTAND SCIENCE, COMBINED WITH THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF A FIGHTER. THEY WERE THE FIGHTING SCIENTISTS AND THEIR OUTFIT WAS CALLED THE FI-SCI BRANCH OF GALAC-SQUAD.

The TORTURER OF TRITON II

I CAN'T ESCAPE!
I'VE GOT TO TAKE COVER. THE TORNADO SWALLOWS EVERYTHING IN ITS REACH.


THE SPINNING VORTEX OF ENERGY LEFT ONLY ONE SURVIVOR.
JUPE! IT'S AS IF THE WHOLE EXPEDITION HAD BEEN SUCKED UP THROUGH A HOLE IN THE SKY!
I MUST WARN BASE CAMP.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER REACHED BASE—
WHAT'S HAPPENED, PRIVATE DENNY?
CAN'T STOP!
BARYON EXPEDITION CALLING STARBASE ONE. OUR CONDITION IS SCARLET CRITICAL!
NO ONE TOUCHES THAT TRANSMIT SET WITHOUT MY SAY SO.
SERGEANT BRUVILLE STOPPED THE TRANSMISSION.

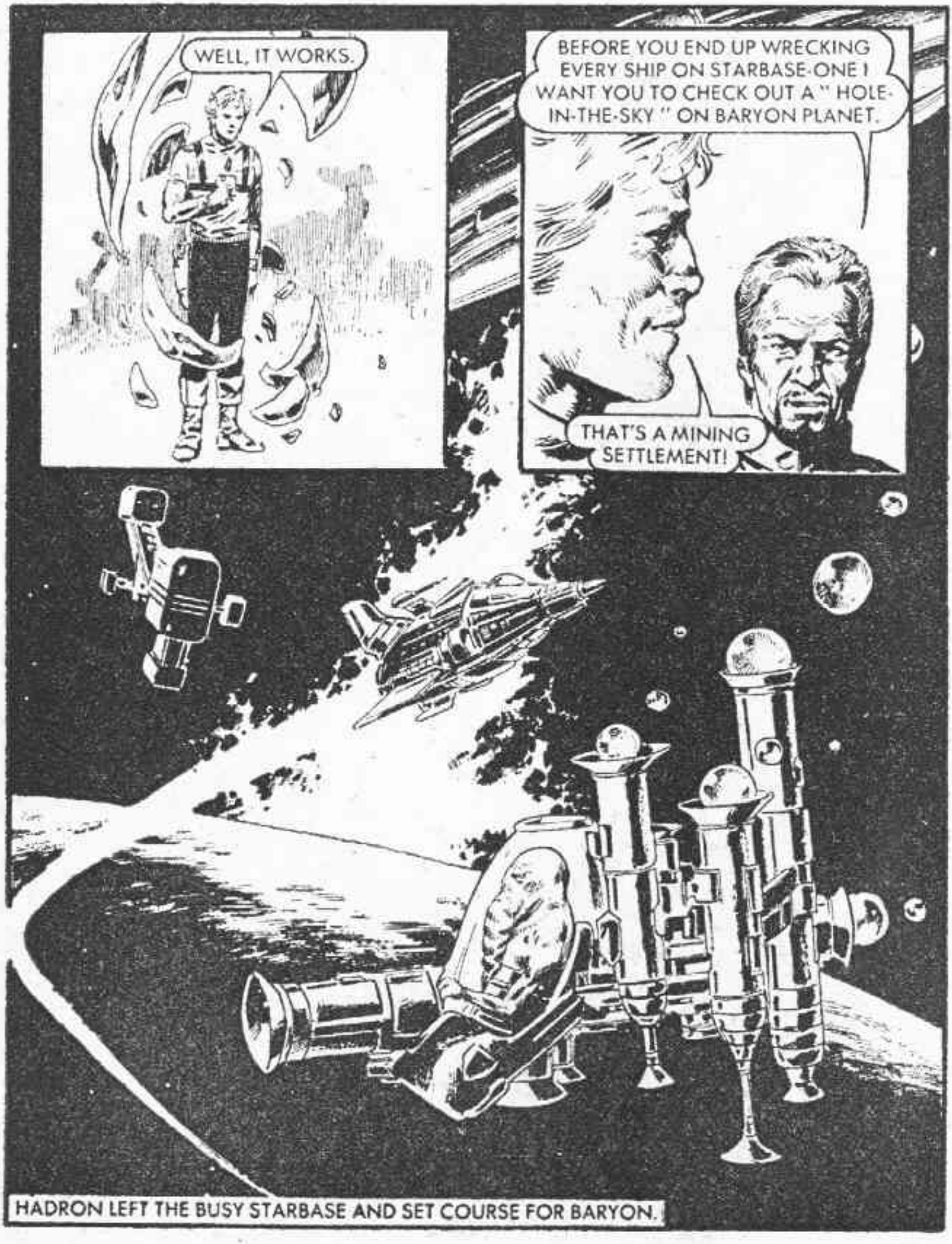
BUT MEN DIED.
I KNOW, AND I'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT WITHOUT YOUR INTERFERENCE.

BACK AT STARBASE ONE, THE GALAC-SQUAD DUTY OFFICER FOUND HIMSELF WITH A PROBLEM.
THE GENERAL MUST BE TOLD ABOUT THESE STRANGE REPORTS FROM THE BARYON PLANET EXPEDITION.

THE BARYON PLANET WAS IN A SECTOR OF SPACE UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL LARZ PLUTO.
HALF THE EXPEDITION ARE MISSING, YET THE SERGEANT IN CHARGE DECLINES TO ACCEPT ASSISTANCE.
FI-SCI CAN INVESTIGATE WITHOUT UNDERMINING ANYONE'S AUTHORITY. I'LL SEND ONE OF THEM TO BARYON PLANET.

THE GENERAL CHOSE HADRON HALLEY FOR THE MISSION AND WENT TO THE FI-SCI LABS TO BRIEF HIM.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. WHY ISN'T HE HERE TO MEET ME!
GENERAL SIR, HE WENT OUT ON A TEST FLIGHT.
HERE COMES HADRON NOW SIR.
HE'S TOO LOW AND TOO FAST. THE YOUNG FOOL WILL CRASH!

HADRON'S CRAFT PLUNGED INTO THE FIREPROOF DOCKING BAY—
. . . BUT HADRON HALLEY WAS ONLY TESTING—HADRON FLOATED FREE, SAFE INSIDE HIS LATEST INVENTION —A FORCE-FIELD SHELL.


WELL, IT WORKS.
BEFORE YOU END UP WRECKING EVERY SHIP ON STARBASE-ONE I WANT YOU TO CHECK OUT A " HOLE-IN-THE-SKY " ON BARYON PLANET.
THAT'S A MINING SETTLEMENT!
HADRON LEFT THE BUSY STARBASE AND SET COURSE FOR BARYON.

ON BARYON PLANET, SERGEANT BRUVILLE ASSEMBLED THE LAST OF HIS MEN.
OUR ORDERS ARE TO SEARCH OUT DEPOSITS OF HYPER-FUEL PELLETS— WHATEVER THE RISK.
YOU'RE SENDING US TO CERTAIN DEATH. THE HOLE IN THE SKY WILL GET US. I WON'T GO!
I WILL STAY HERE ALONE TO GUARD THE SHIP WHILE YOU MEN MAKE YOUR SEARCH OUT THERE.

A RIOT-QUELL DART WILL CURE YOUR PANIC, MY LAD!
IF ANYONE ELSE DOESN'T WANT TO GO—FINE—I'LL COURT MARTIAL AND EXECUTE THEM.

FOOLS! THEY HAVE SIGNED THEIR OWN DEATH WARRANTS, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MATTER AS LONG AS THEY FIND MORE HYPER-FUEL PELLETS.
PRIVATE DENNY WAS PUT IN A CELL.
YOU DISOBEYED AN ORDER . . . THAT'S A SERIOUS OFFENCE. IT'LL PROBABLY PROVE FATAL FOR YOU.
BRUVILLE WATCHED THE SQUAD ON SCAN.
THEY WILL SOON END UP IN THE HANDS OF THE TORTURER.

MEANWHILE, HADRON CHALLENGED AN INTRUDER DISCOVERED IN ORBIT ABOVE BARYON.
THAT TRITON II BATTLE CRUISER HAS NO RIGHT TO BE IN THIS SECTOR OF FEDERATION SPACE.
THE TRITONS CONTROLLED STAR SYSTEMS NEXT TO EARTH CONTROLLED SPACE.
I NEED MY FORCE SHIELDS. THESE BANDITS ARE TRIGGER HAPPY.

JUPE! THAT FIRE POWER ROCKED THE FORCE SHIELD.
THE TERRAN WILL NOT BE EASILY DESTROYED. WE MUST WITHDRAW. OUR ORDERS ARE NOT TO PROVOKE THE GALAC-SQUAD . . . YET.

THE TRITONS ARE RUNNING. THERE IS A BIG MYSTERY ABOUT BARYON PLANET.

WITH ANTI-SENSOR BAFFLES ON I'LL MAKE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT THE BASE.

RIGHT IN UNDETECTED. TIME TO TELEPORT.

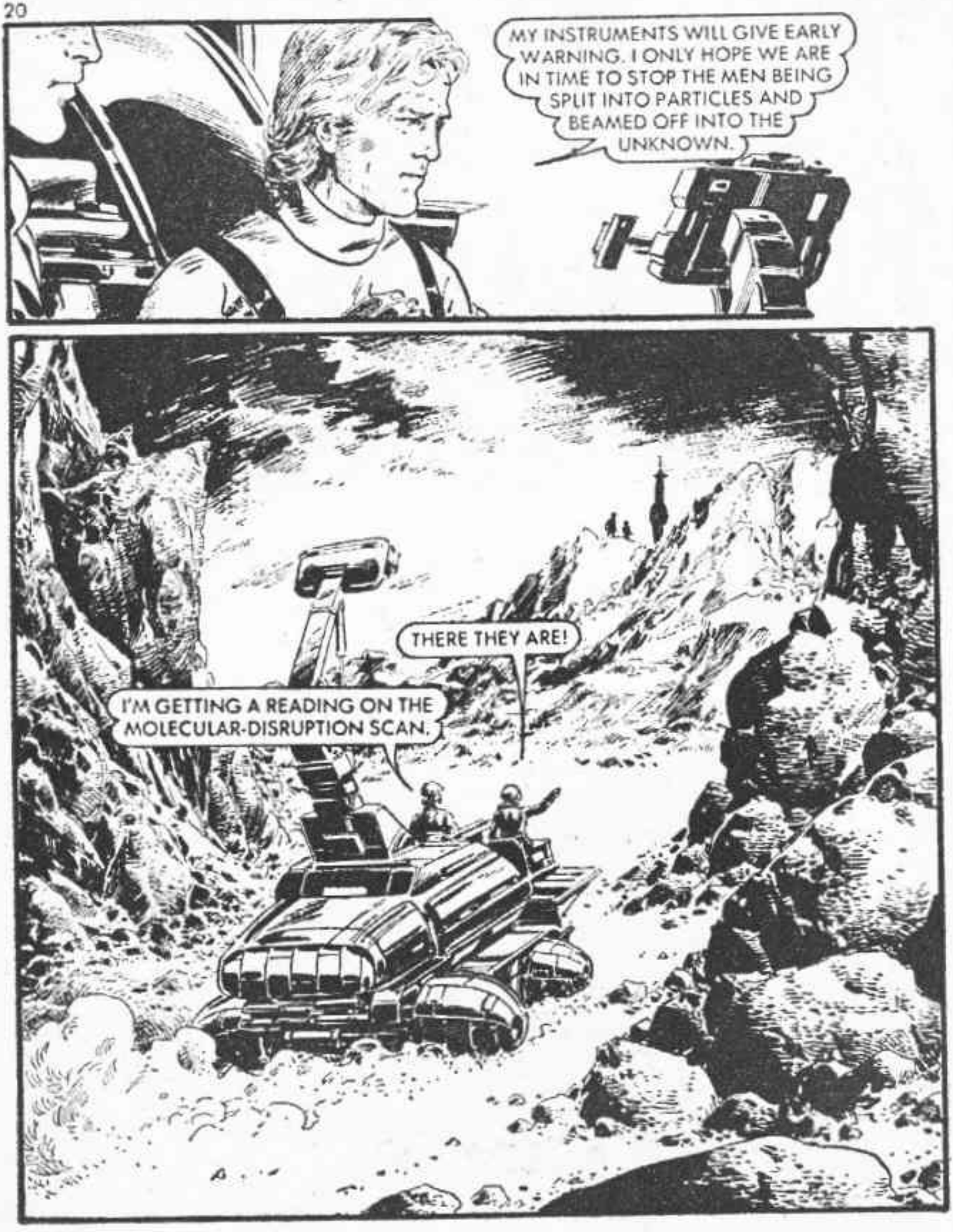
HADRON TELEPORTED THE SHORT DISTANCE, AND LANDED IN DENNY'S CELL.
THIS IS BETTER THAN A DOOR.
WHAT THE . . .

HADRON QUESTIONED DENNY ABOUT THE DISTRESS MESSAGE.
I SENT IT. BRUVILLE WAS ANGRY. THEN I REFUSED TO GO OUT AGAIN. HE WAS SENDING US TO CERTAIN DEATH—AND HE KNEW IT.
I WONDER WHAT HIS VERSION IS?

A SNOOPER—YOU'RE NOT WANTED HERE.

YOU'RE VERY SUSPICIOUS.

LOOK—THE MEN ARE IN DANGER!
GO TO SLEEP, BRUVILLE. I'LL BE BACK TO SEE YOU.
BOARDING A SURFACE VEHICLE, THEY WENT TO HELP THE OTHER MEN.
YOUR HOLE IN THE SKY SOUNDS LIKE THE PICK-UP END OF A MATTER-TRANSMITTER-BEAM.


MY INSTRUMENTS WILL GIVE EARLY WARNING. I ONLY HOPE WE ARE IN TIME TO STOP THE MEN BEING SPLIT INTO PARTICLES AND BEAMED OFF INTO THE UNKNOWN.
THERE THEY ARE!
I'M GETTING A READING ON THE MOLECULAR-DISRUPTION SCAN.

GRAB A THERMO-RAY FROM THE LOCKER, DENNY. BE READY TO USE IT.
KEEP FIRING, DENNY. I AIM TO COLLAPSE THE CLIFF.
THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF MATERIAL WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR THE TORNADO TO DEMATERIALISE.

THE MOLECULAR DISRUPTION CHOKED AND BEGAN TO FAIL.
YOU ARE LUCKY TO HAVE SURVIVED.

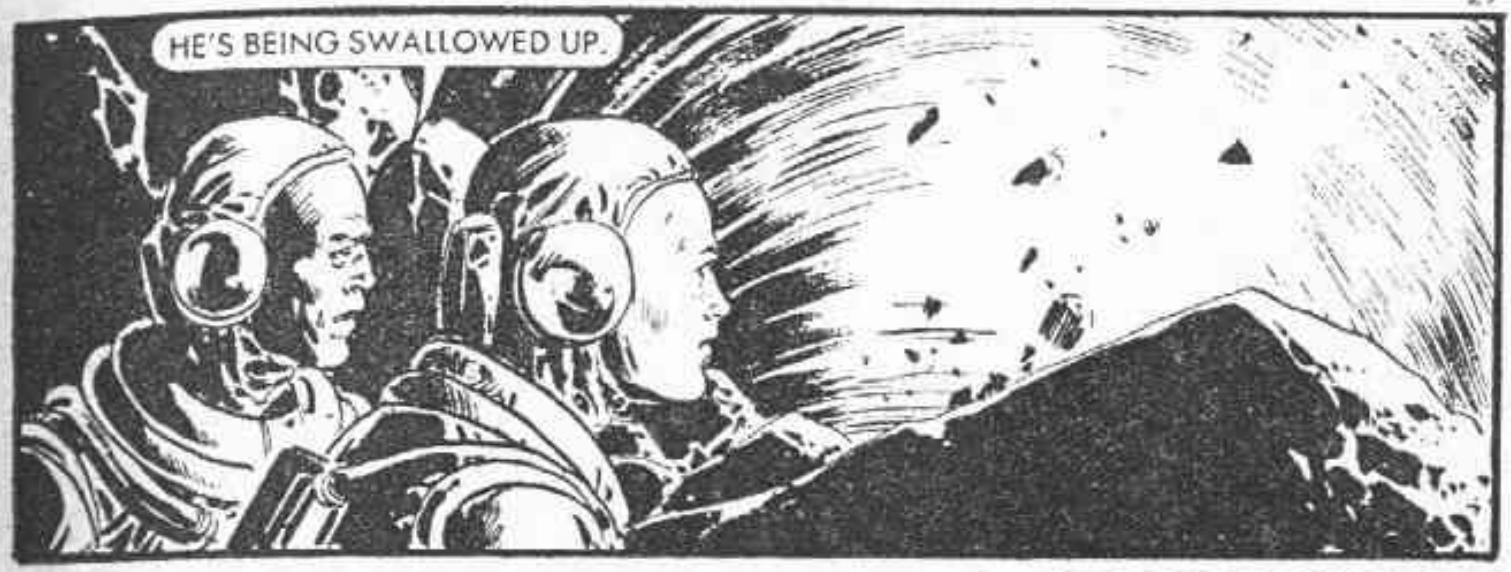
LOOK! THAT MUST BE BRUVILLE RUNNING.
GOODBYE, FOOLS. I GO TO JOIN MY NEW MASTERS.

THE STRANDED EXPEDITION GOT BACK TO WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEIR BASE CAMP.
BRUVILLE HAS LEFT US NOTHING. THE FI-SCI SHIP IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING AWAY ALIVE.

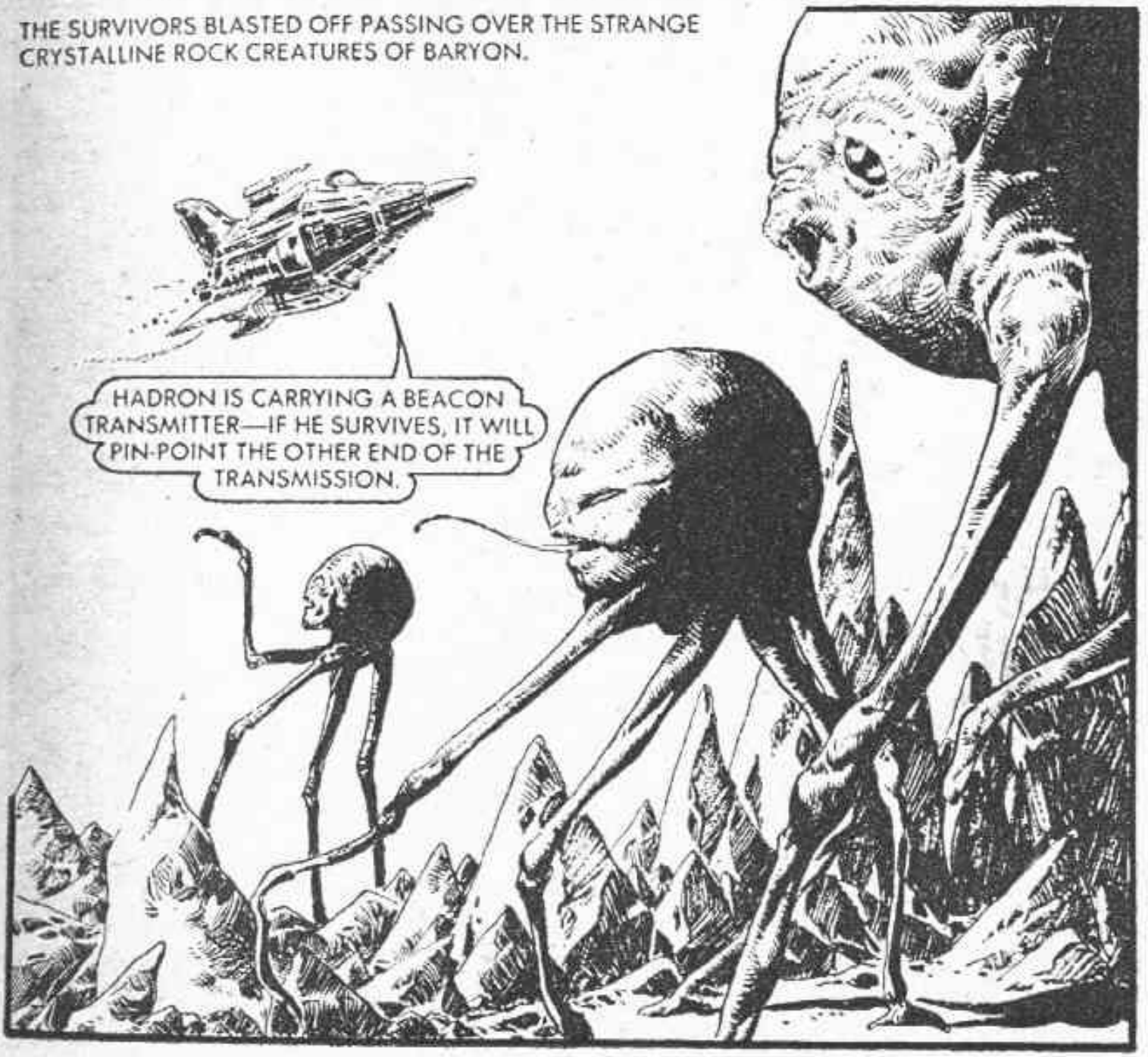
BUT ON THE SHIP . . .
BRUVILLE HAS STOLEN ALL MY HYPER-FUEL CELLS.
WE'LL UNCOVER ANOTHER NATURAL DEPOSIT OF FUEL PELLETS WHILE YOUR EQUIPMENT PROTECTS US FROM THE TORNADO.

IF THE WARNING SOUNDS, YOU'VE GOT 30 SECONDS TO GET CLEAR.
LESS THAN A UNIT LATER—
MOVE IT, THERE GOES THE ALARM.
WHERE'S THE FI-SCI MAN? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MATERIAL TO FUEL HIS SHIP.
HE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS—WE'VE TO GO WITHOUT HIM.

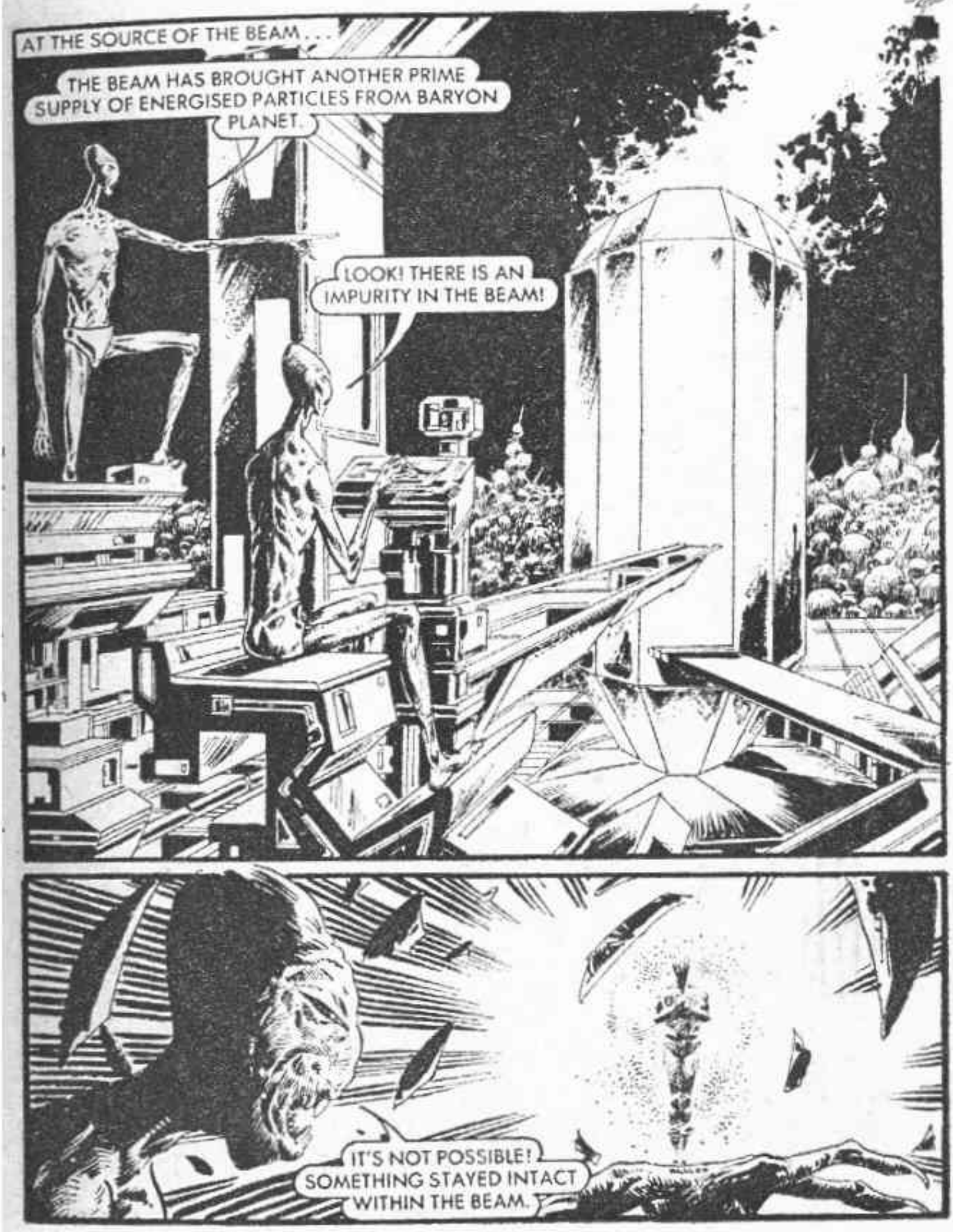
HADRON STOOD DELIBERATELY IN THE EYE OF THE FAST FORMING TORNADO.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING! MY FORCE SHIELD SHOULD PROTECT ME.
I'M AIRBORNE!



THE SURVIVORS BLASTED OFF PASSING OVER THE STRANGE CRYSTALLINE ROCK CREATURES OF BARYON.



THE SHELL IS BEGINNING TO WARP.
IF THE FORCE BUBBLE FAILS, I'LL BE SPLIT INTO PARTICLES JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER MATTER.
AS THE FORCE BUBBLE APPROACHED BREAKING POINT, THE MATTER TRANSFERENCE BEAM REACHED ITS SOURCE.


AT THE SOURCE OF THE BEAM . . .
THE BEAM HAS BROUGHT ANOTHER PRIME SUPPLY OF ENERGISED PARTICLES FROM BARYON PLANET.
LOOK! THERE IS AN IMPURITY IN THE BEAM!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! SOMETHING STAYED INTACT WITHIN THE BEAM.

TRITONS—I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED YOU WERE BEHIND THIS.
SPEAK—OR I'LL SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS.
WE NEED THE ENERGISED PARTICLES FROM HYPER-FUEL PELLETS TO FEED OUR GENERATOR.

THE TRITON SCIENTIST LED HADRON TO WHERE THEIR GENERATOR WAS INSTALLED.
THAT SPACE-CRAFT HOUSES AN ANTI-MATTER GENERATOR.
BUT ANTI-MATTER IS UNSTABLE! YOU WILL DESTROY THIS WHOLE STAR-SYSTEM—AND MORE!

WHAT THE . . . ?
BRUVILLE!
TRITON NEEDS INFORMATION ABOUT EARTH, AND YOU WILL SUPPLY IT. YOU ARE THE KEY TO MY TRITON MASTERS MAKING ME THE RICHEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE.

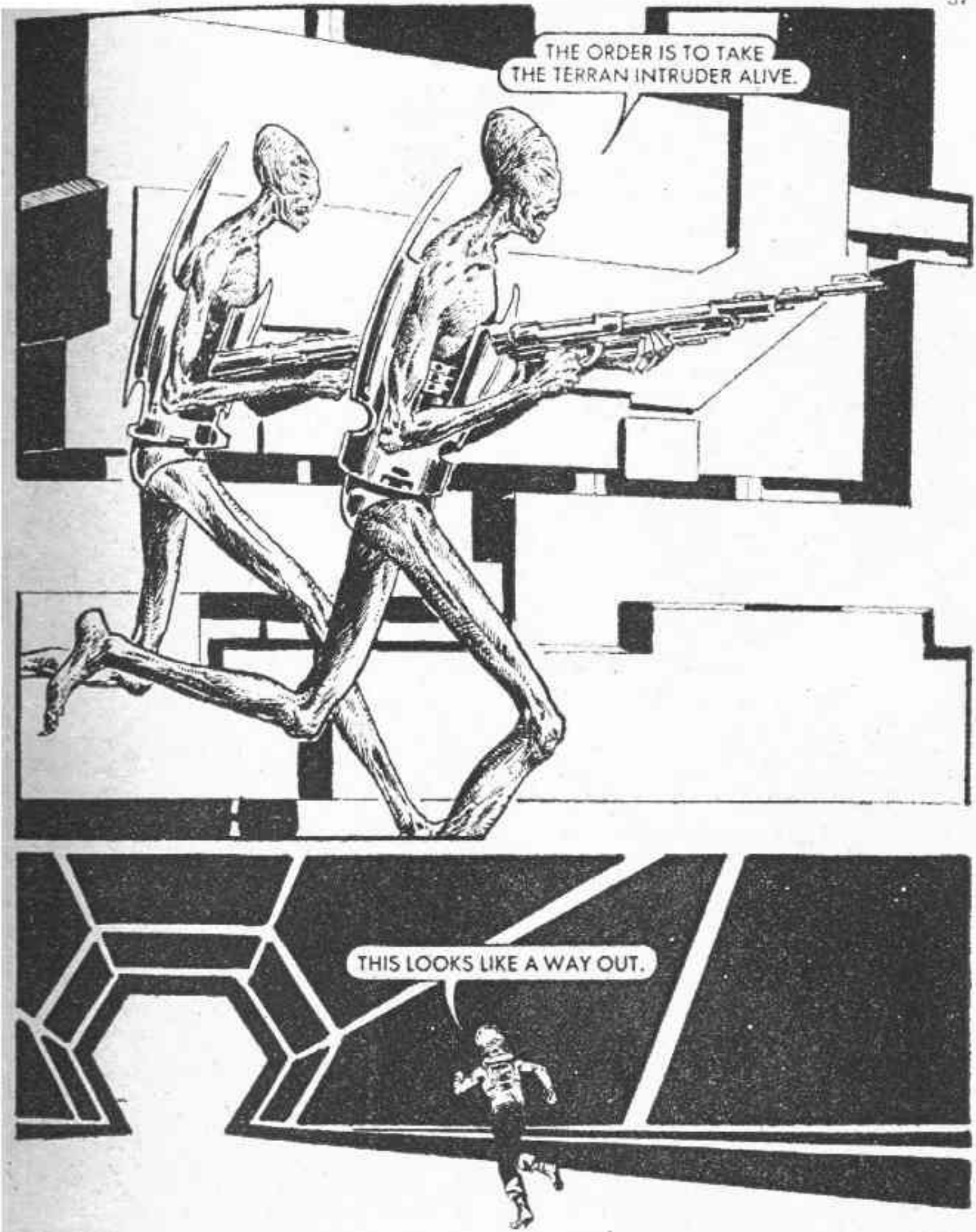
AM I?
YES . . . AS ALL THE OTHER CAPTURED FI-SCI MEN WERE. THEY ALL TALKED—SO WILL YOU.

NO I WON'T—I'LL ACT.

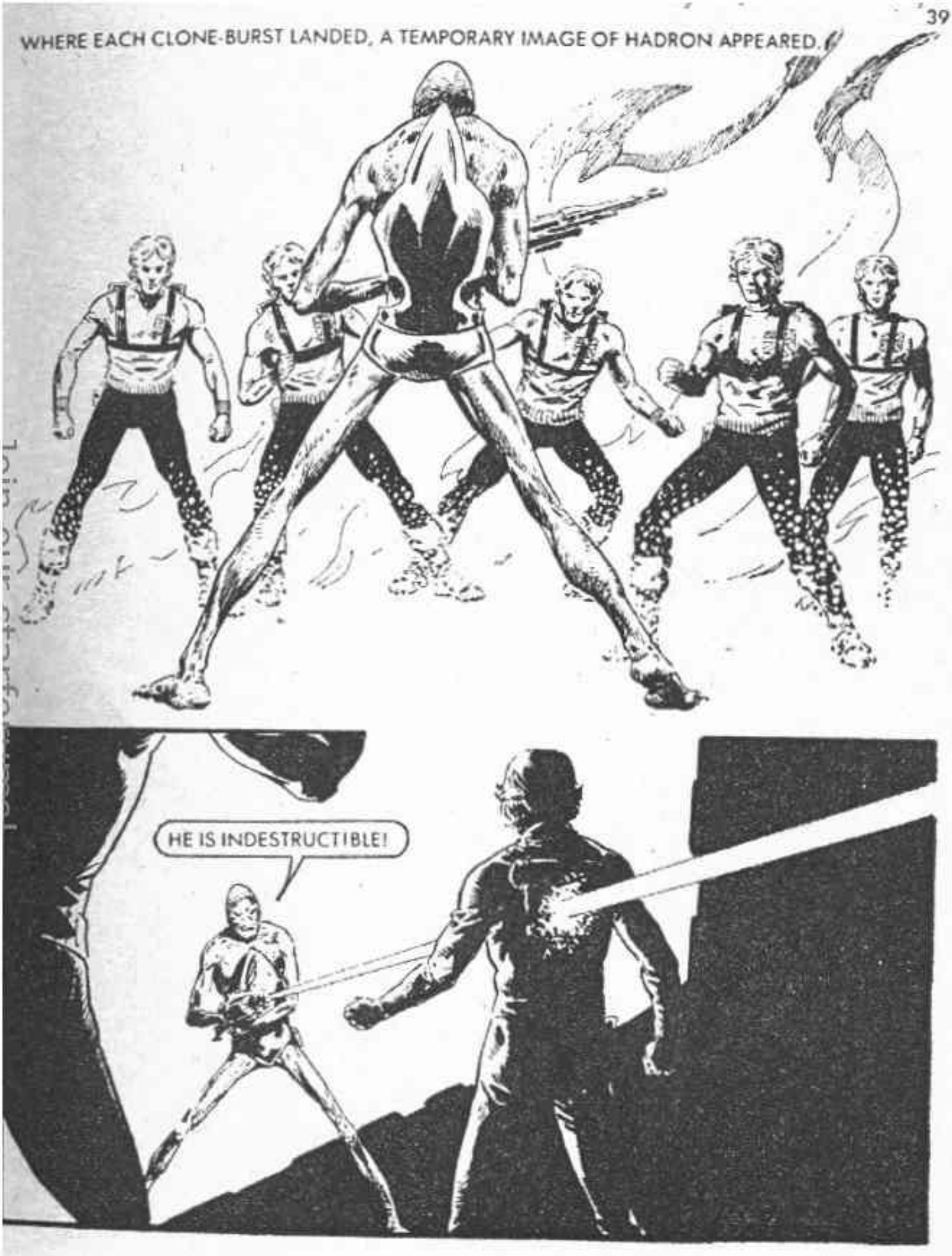
I'VE GOT TO STOP YOU USING THAT ANTI-MATTER GENERATOR!
NOW YOU KNOW WHY I'M CALLED A FIGHTING SCIENTIST.

WHERE DO I GO NOW?
THIS ELECTROPOWER SHOULD SLOW DOWN PURSUIT.
THE FLARING ELECTROPOWER HALTED THE PURSUING TRITONS.

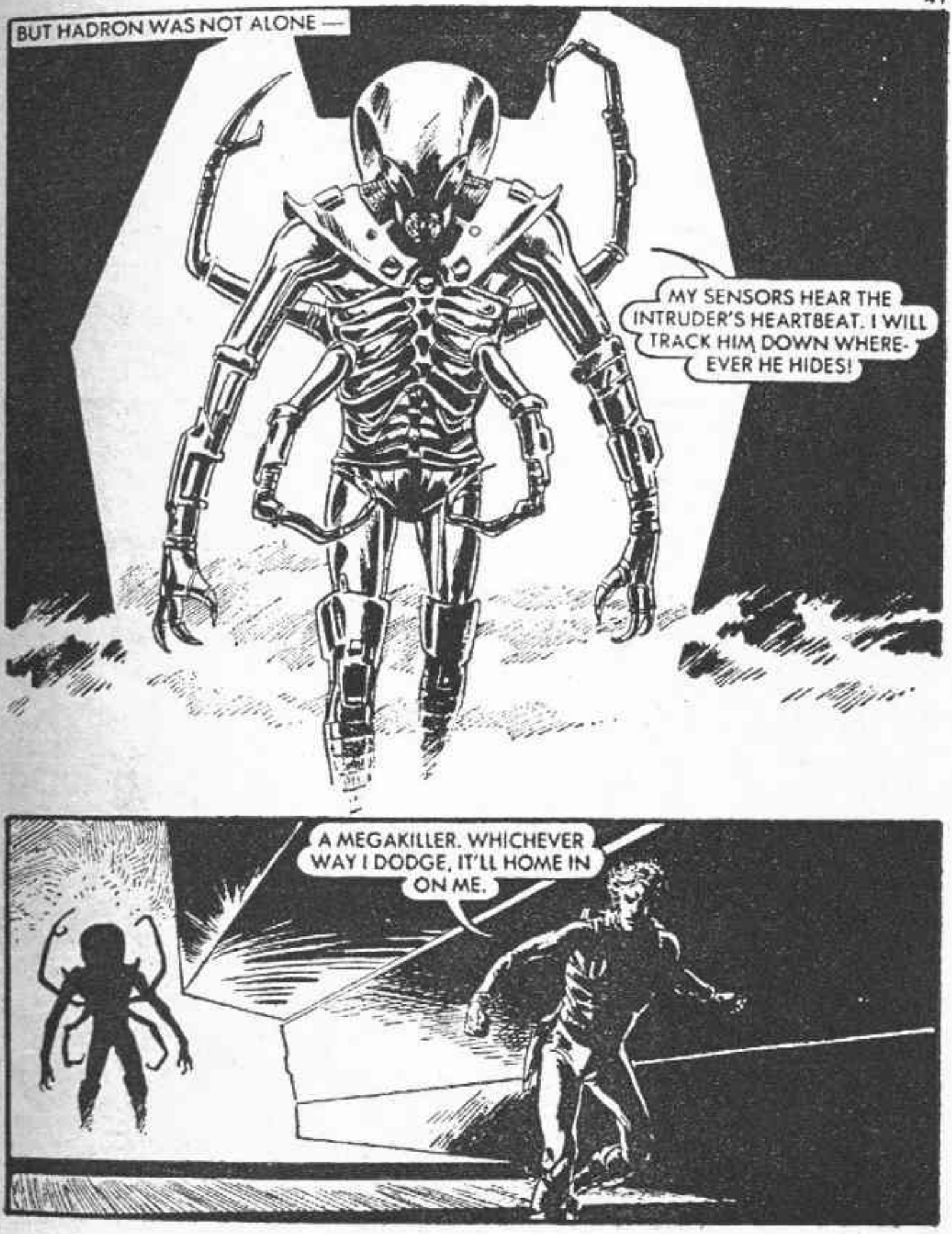
EMERGENCY ALERT! THERE IS AN INTRUDER IN THE ANTI-MATTER COMPLEX! SEND EVERY AVAILABLE GUARD!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE!


THE ORDER IS TO TAKE THE TERRAN INTRUDER ALIVE.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A WAY OUT.

THE COURTYARD OUTSIDE IS SWARMING WITH TRITON GUARDS.
LET'S SEE HOW THEY COPE WITH A CLONE-BURST.


WHERE EACH CLONE-BURST LANDED, A TEMPORARY IMAGE OF HADRON APPEARED.
HE IS INDESTRUCTIBLE!

NOW TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE BEFORE THE CLONE IMAGES FADE.
THE CLONE-IMAGES CREATED A PANIC AMONG THE GUARDS.
OUR POSITION IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE ENEMY CAN SHOOT US BUT WE CAN'T SHOOT HIM!
THERE'S A WHOLE MAZE OF PASSAGES HERE.

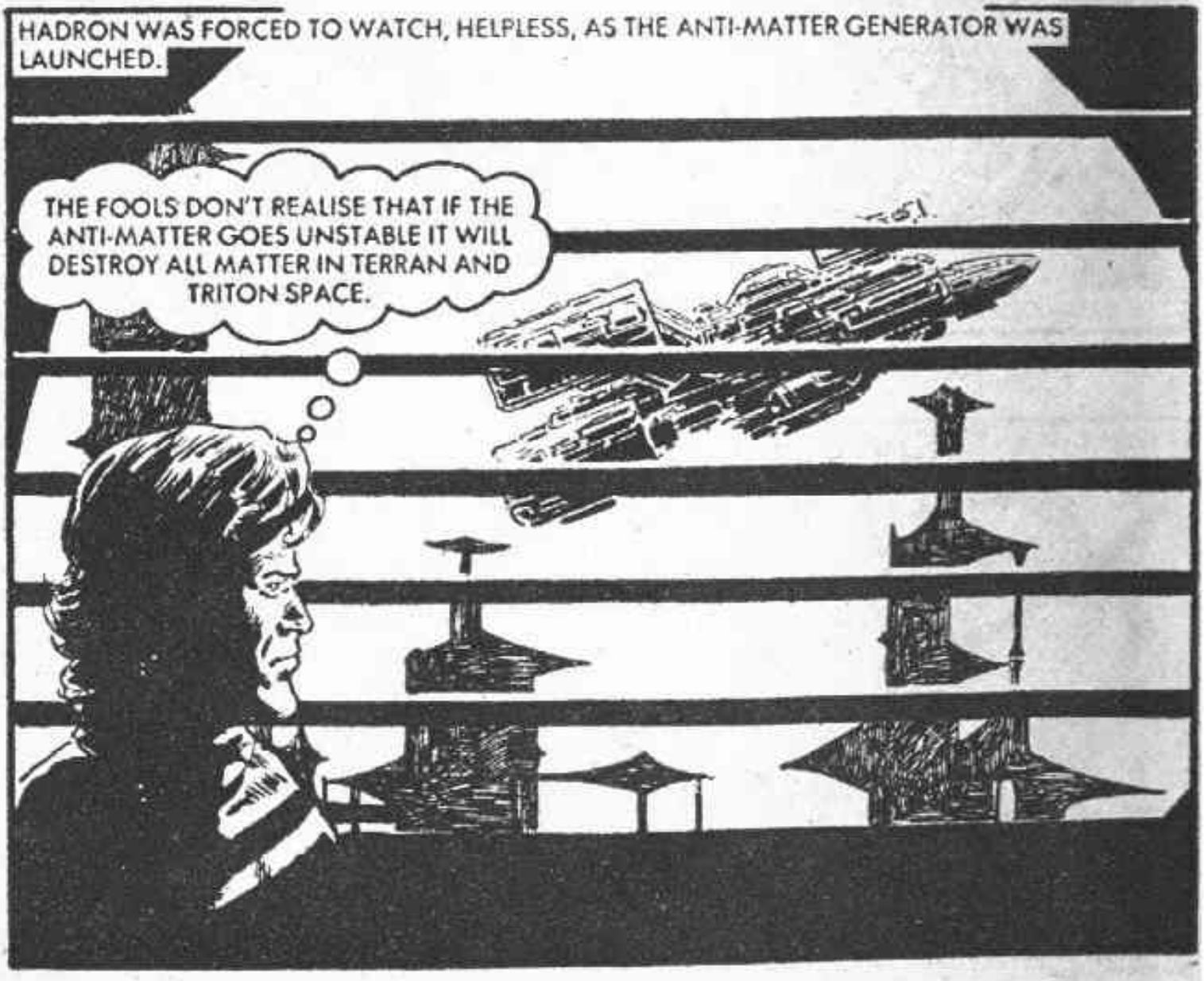

BUT HADRON WAS NOT ALONE —
MY SENSORS HEAR THE INTRUDER'S HEARTBEAT. I WILL TRACK HIM DOWN WHEREVER HE HIDES!
A MEGAKILLER. WHICHEVER WAY I DODGE, IT'LL HOME IN ON ME.

IT'S LOCKED. I'M TRAPPED!
MY ONLY HOPE IS THE BLASTER.

JUPE! GAS!
THE MEGAKILLER OVERCAME ALL RESISTANCE.

MUCH LATER—
THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!

UNFORTUNATELY I WILL NOT BE HERE TO WITNESS YOUR PAINFUL INTERROGATION AND EXECUTION.
THE ATTACK ON GALAC-SQUAD HAS BEEN ORDERED. I AM TO ACCOMPANY THE BATTLE FLEET.


HADRON WAS FORCED TO WATCH, HELPLESS, AS THE ANTI-MATTER GENERATOR WAS LAUNCHED.
THE FOOLS DON'T REALISE THAT IF THE ANTI-MATTER GOES UNSTABLE IT WILL DESTROY ALL MATTER IN TERRAN AND TRITON SPACE.

WE WILL OBLITERATE THE GALAC-SQUAD BASES WHILE THE BATTLEFLEET DESTROYS THEIR SHIPS.
THEN THE TERRAN EMPIRE WILL BE AT OUR MERCY!
MEANWHILE, HADRON WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE TORTURER OF TRITON II.
THE FI-SCI PACK IS STILL IN ONE PIECE. THAT MEANS MY PERSONAL BEACON TRANSMITTER IS STILL WORKING!

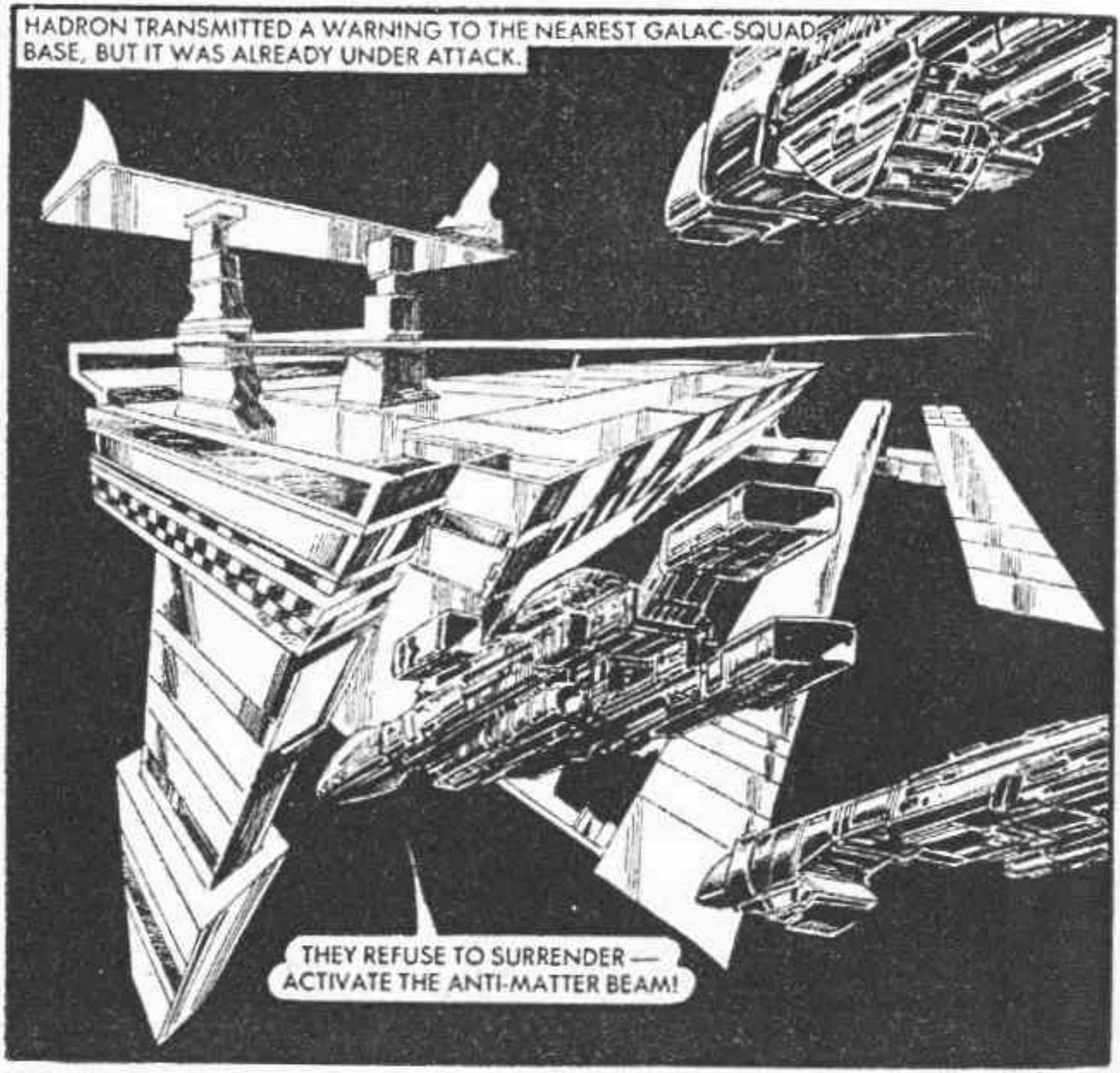
AN EXPLOSION ROCKED THE BUILDING.

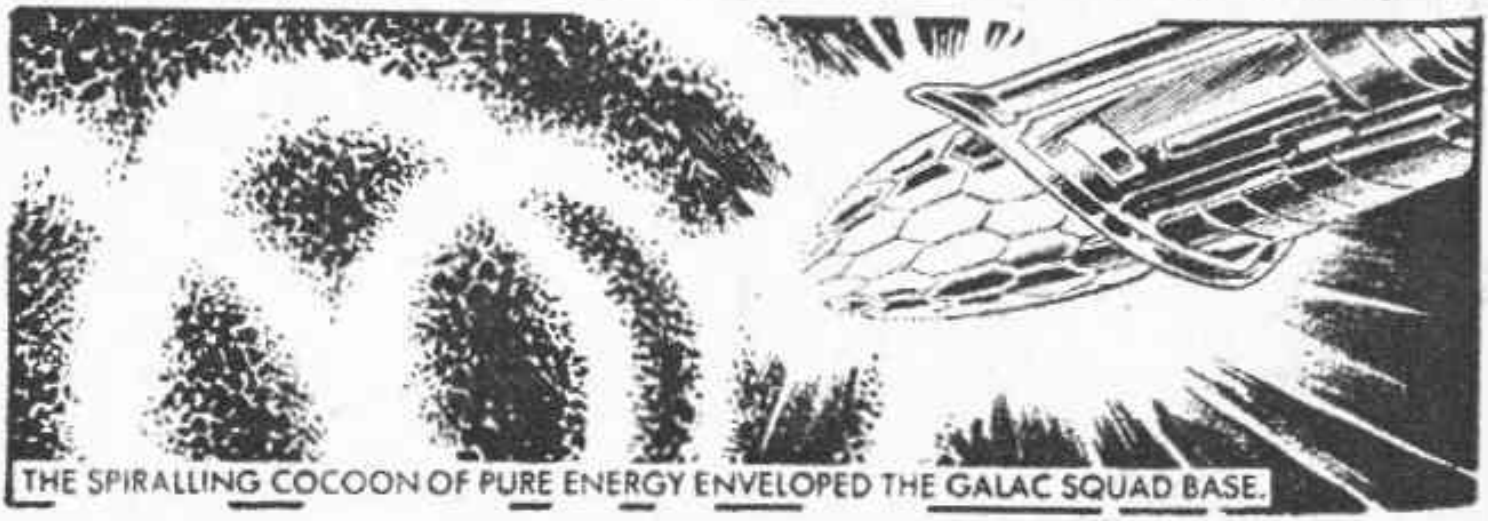
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE RESCUE AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR!

WITH THE WHOLE TRITON FLEET AWAY ATTACKING GALAC-SQUAD, THE HOME PLANET WAS UNDEFENDED.

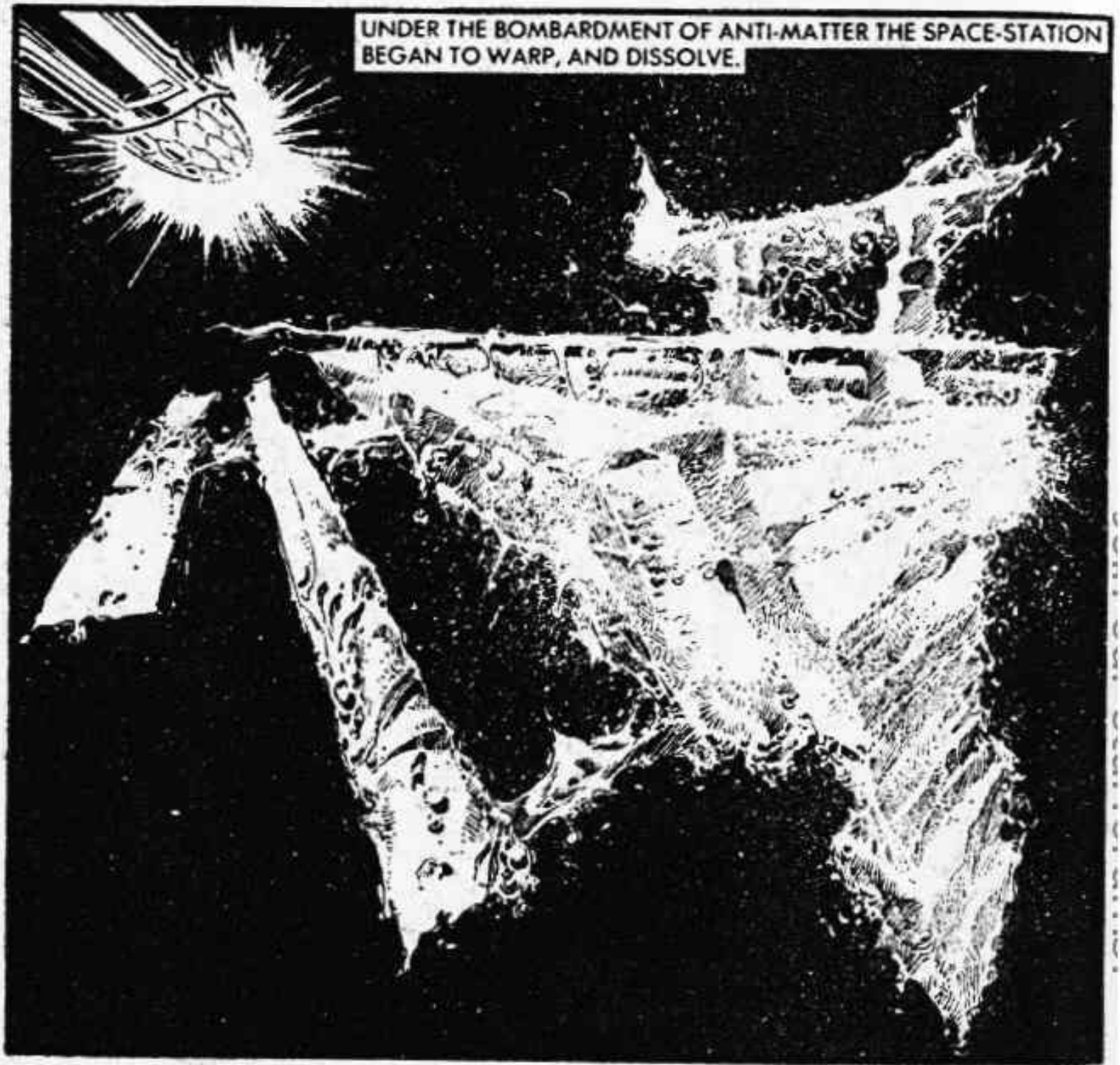
HANG ON, HADRON!

DENNY BEAMED HADRON ON BOARD.
WE'VE GOT URGENT WORK. THE TRITON HAVE ALREADY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK AGAINST GALAC-SQUAD.
DURING THE LONG CHASE, HADRON TOLD DENNY ABOUT BRUVILLE'S TREACHERY AND THE POTENTIAL DISASTER OF THE ANTI-MATTER GENERATOR.
THE ANTI-MATTER WEAPON WILL MAKE THE TORNADO SEEM LIKE A POP-GUN BY COMPARISON. WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!


HADRON TRANSMITTED A WARNING TO THE NEAREST GALAC-SQUAD BASE, BUT IT WAS ALREADY UNDER ATTACK.
THEY REFUSE TO SURRENDER — ACTIVATE THE ANTI-MATTER BEAM!

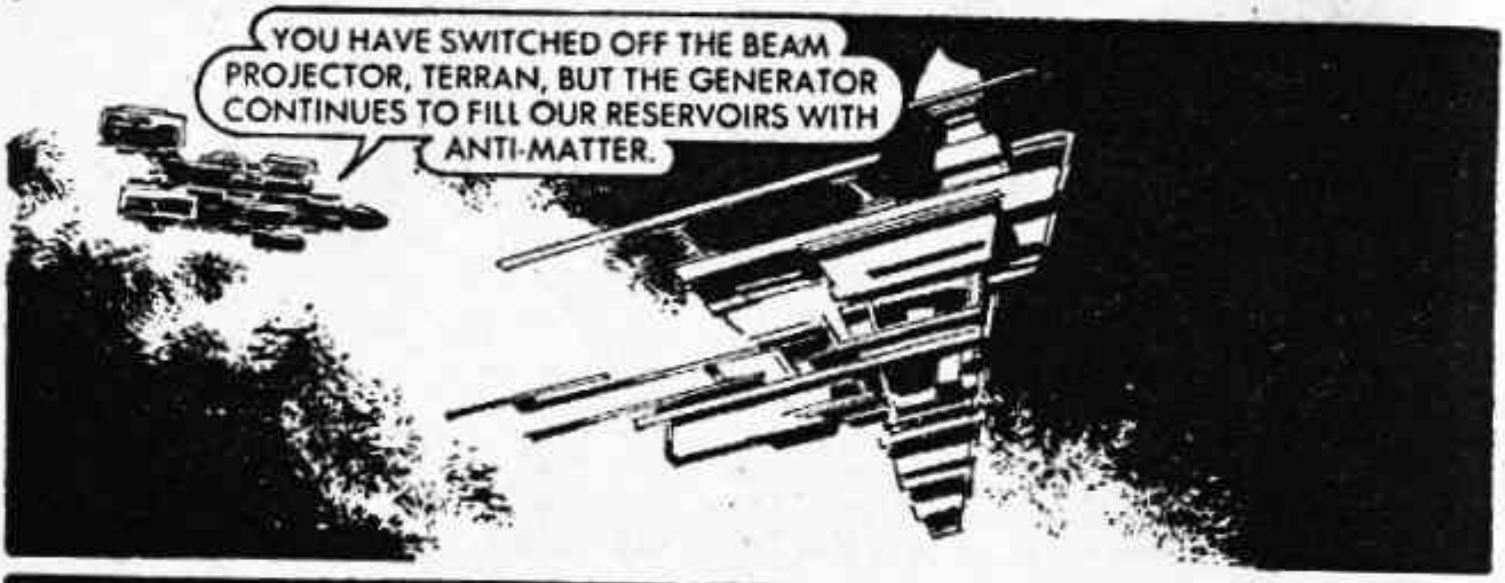

THE SPIRALLING COCOON OF PURE ENERGY ENVELOPED THE GALAC SQUAD BASE.

IN HADRON'S SHIP —
THE TRITON HAVE LEFT THEIR REAR UNGUARDED. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH IN MINUTES.
I'M ABOUT TO DOCK. GET READY TO FIGHT OUR WAY ON BOARD, DENNY.


UNDER THE BOMBARDMENT OF ANTI-MATTER THE SPACE-STATION BEGAN TO WARP, AND DISSOLVE.

HADRON'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE TOOK THE TRITON BY SURPRISE.

DROP ALL WEAPONS OR HE GETS VAPED.
THE TRITON SURRENDERED.
NOW, IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE, LET'S HAVE AN END TO ANTI-MATTER GENERATION.


YOU HAVE SWITCHED OFF THE BEAM PROJECTOR, TERRAN, BUT THE GENERATOR CONTINUES TO FILL OUR RESERVOIRS WITH ANTI-MATTER.

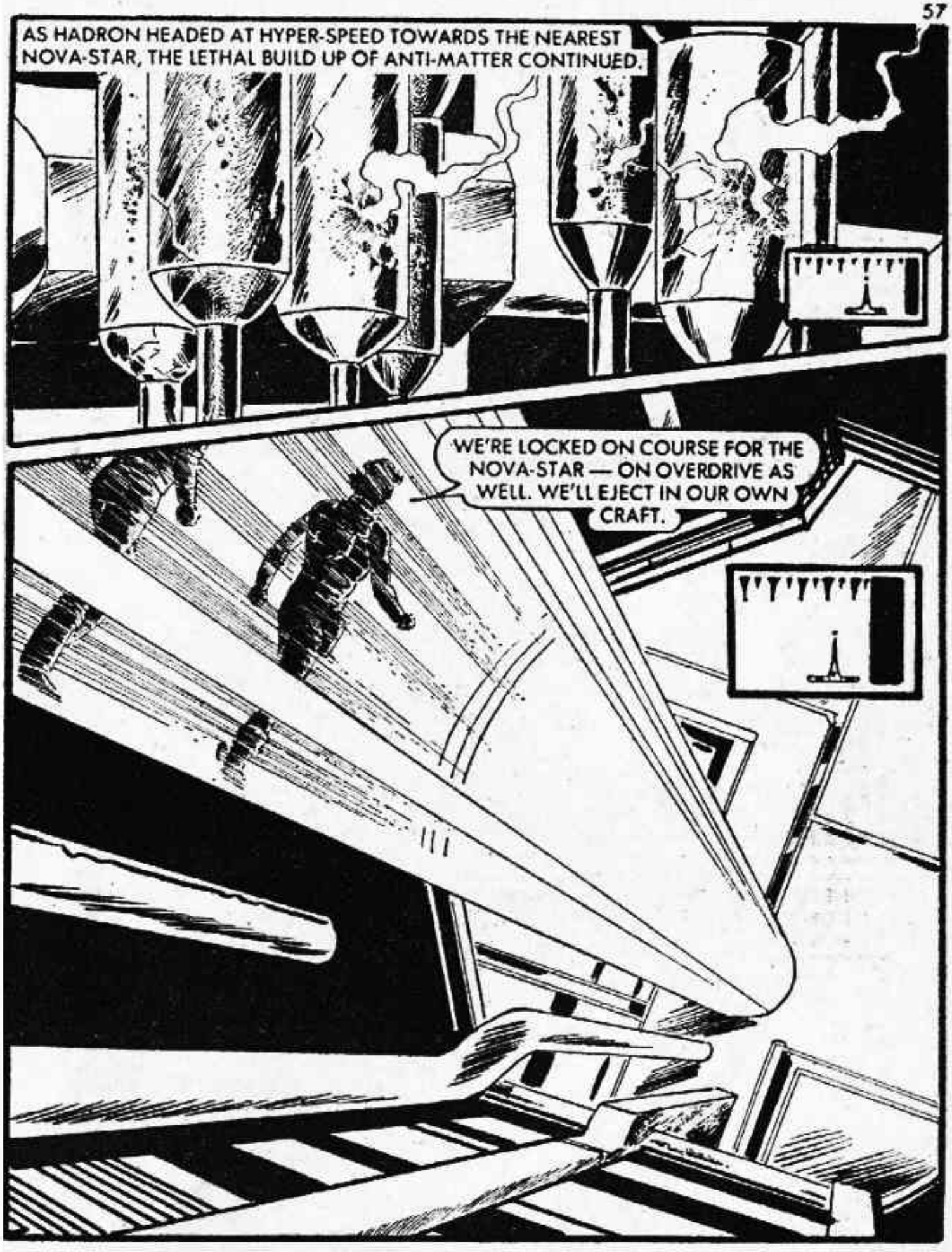
THE BUILD UP TO INSTABILITY CANNOT BE STOPPED. ALREADY THE RESERVOIRS HOLD ENOUGH ANTI-MATTER TO DESTROY A SMALL PLANET! IT MEANS THE END OF US ALL!

THERE MUST BE A WAY OF DESTROYING THE ANTI-MATTER.
THE TRITON CREW WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE GALAC-SQUAD SPACE-STATION AS PRISONERS.
THAT'S EVERYONE OFF THE SHIP EXCEPT YOU TWO. GOOD LUCK.
THANKS, WE'LL NEED IT.

YOU'VE GOT GUTS VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS MISSION, DENNY.
THIS PART OF THE GALAXY WILL BE DESTROYED UNLESS WE CAN STOP IT —
THAT'S THE ONE TO WATCH, DENNY. WHEN THE NEEDLE HITS THE BLACK, THE ANTI-MATTER BREAKS OUT OF THE RESERVOIRS AND THAT'S THE END.

I'VE GOT A DIRECT TRANSMIT-LINK TO FI-SCI LABORATORIES. THE BEST BRAINS, HUMAN AND ELECTRONIC, ARE BACKING US UP, TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION.

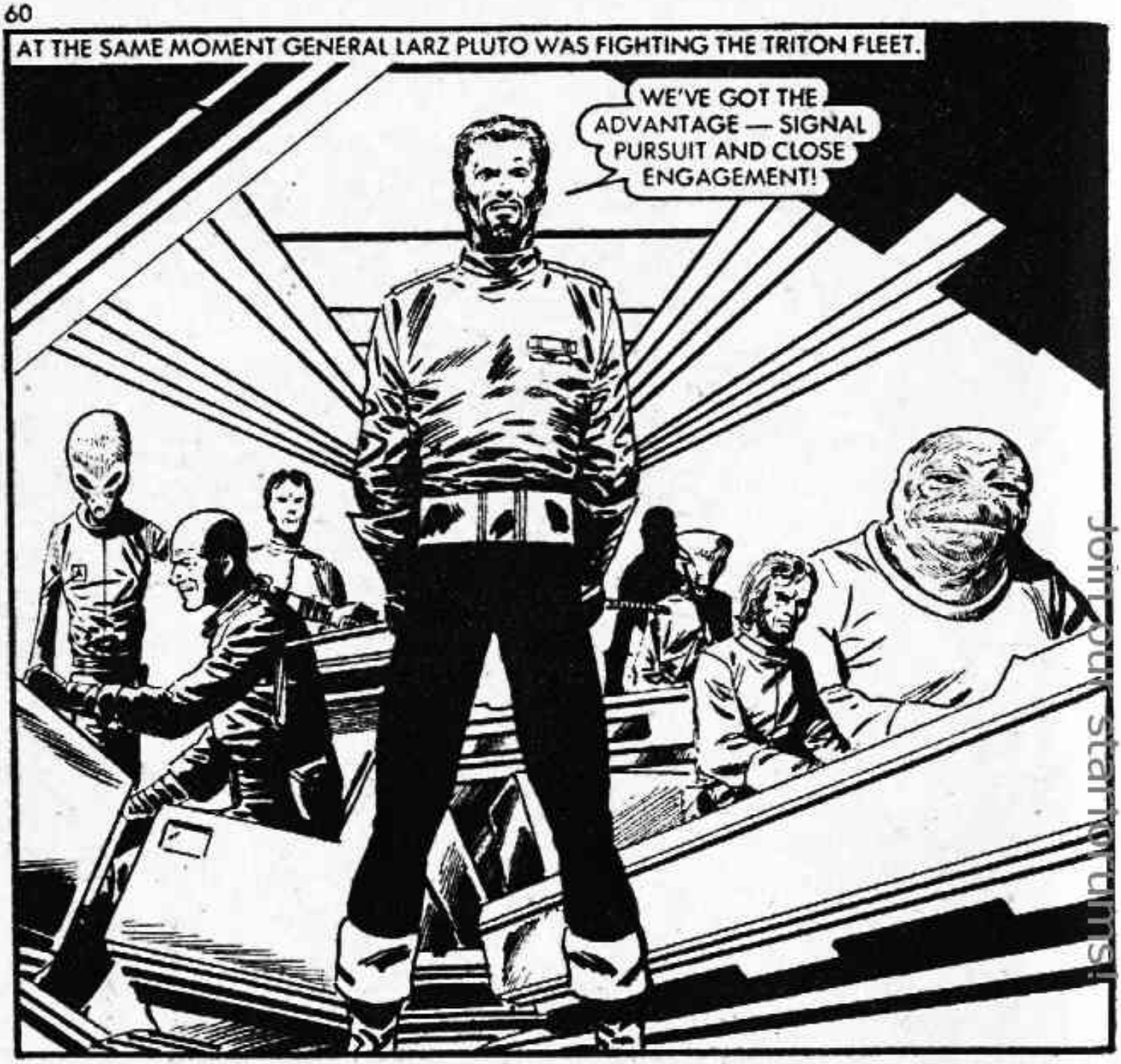
IN FI-SCI HEADQUARTERS —
WE'VE LOCATED A NOVA STAR, HADRON.
WHERE . . . AND HOW FAR?
IN ZONE Q7 . . . 147 UNITS AWAY. THE TRITON FLEET IS ATTACKING US EVEN WITHOUT THEIR SECRET WEAPON.
IF I DON'T SUCCEED GENERAL, THERE WON'T BE A GALAXY LEFT TO FIGHT FOR!


AS HADRON HEADED AT HYPER-SPEED TOWARDS THE NEAREST NOVA-STAR, THE LETHAL BUILD UP OF ANTI-MATTER CONTINUED.
WE'RE LOCKED ON COURSE FOR THE NOVA-STAR — ON OVERDRIVE AS WELL. WE'LL EJECT IN OUR OWN CRAFT.

THE NOVA-STAR PULSED WITH THE POWER OF AN IMMINENT EXPLOSION OF UNSTABLE MATTER.
I'M GOING TO USE THE IMMENSE GRAVITY OF THE STAR TO PULL US ROUND ON A COURSE BACK HOME.
THERE GOES THE ANTI-MATTER. WE'RE NOW COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF NATURAL FORCES.

AS THE ANTI-MATTER ERUPTED IT CAUSED THE STAR TO GO NOVA — THE TWO VAST QUANTITIES OF ENERGY CANCELLED EACH OTHER OUT IN A BOILING CLOUD OF GAS.

THE FI-SCI SHIP SURVIVED THE CLASH OF FORCES.


AT THE SAME MOMENT GENERAL LARZ PLUTO WAS FIGHTING THE TRITON FLEET.
WE'VE GOT THE ADVANTAGE — SIGNAL PURSUIT AND CLOSE ENGAGEMENT!

Join our Starforums!

IF THE TRITON SURRENDER I WILL BE EXECUTED AS A TRAITOR. I MUST FLEE TO A NEUTRAL WORLD.

THEY DIDN'T SPOT MY ESCAPE, I WILL SURVIVE!

BUT —
IT'S A TRITON SHIP. WE'RE IN TIME TO JOIN THE FIGHT. LET'S GET ON HIS TAIL!

HALLEY'S SHIP! I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE. THIS TIME I WILL MAKE SURE OF HIS DEATH!
HADRON'S CALL FOR A SURRENDER WAS REFUSED BY A VOICE HE RECOGNISED INSTANTLY.
OF ALL THE LUCK, IT'S BRUVILLE!
DIE, FI-SCI!

TO PREVENT HOLES IN THE FORCE SHIELD, A WEAPON POD WAS PROJECTED OUTSIDE THE FIELD.
THIS IS WHERE SERGEANT BRUVILLE AND I SETTLE AN OLD SCORE.

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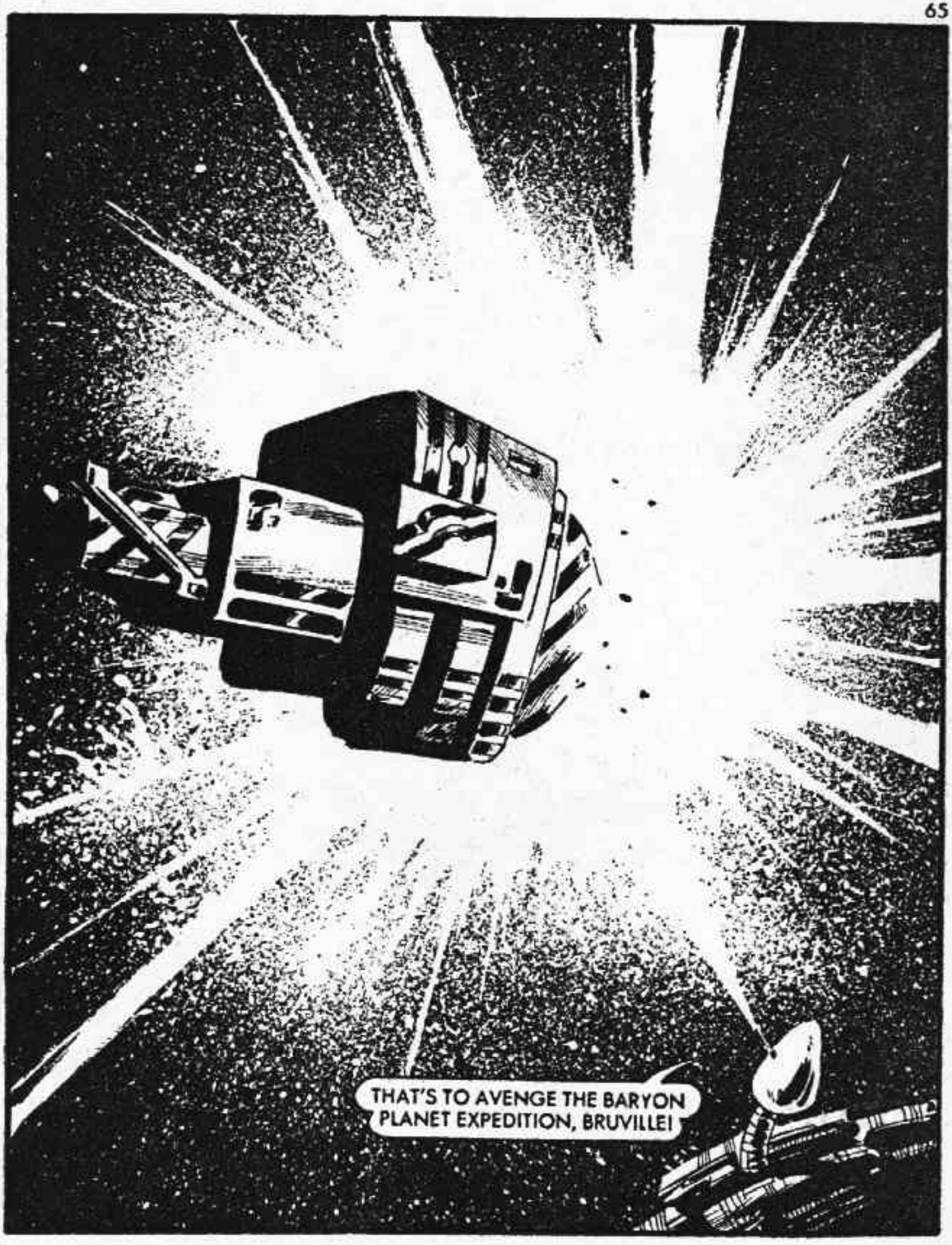
THAT'S TO AVENGE THE BARYON PLANET EXPEDITION, BRUVILLE!

SO PERISH ALL TRAITORS!
GALAC-SQUAD HAVE JUST SENT A MESSAGE TO SAY THAT THE TRITON HAVE SURRENDERED.
SO ENDED THE REIGN OF TERROR FROM TRITON II. EVEN AS THE FI-SCI CRAFT LEFT THE DRIFTING SPACE WRECKAGE HADRON HALLEY WAS KEYING IN HIS MISSION COMPLETED CODE SIGN TO H.Q. . . . READY FOR HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT.
Join our starfighters!

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NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THIS

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IT'S ON SALE IN YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!

STARBLAZERS
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